Joyce Carol Oates

Born on June 16, 1938 Joyce Carol Oates was one of many women writers. She lived in Lockport, New York. Being raised as a Catholic but transitioning into an Atheist has affected her writing from a religious stand point.

With the death of her grandmother Joyce would write a novel in around 2007. “The Gravedigger’s Daughter” was the name of this story. Joyce began to take an interest in reading at the age of 14, and began writing with the typewriter her grandmother gave her. Joyce would need to further her education being the first in her family to complete high school. She would later attend Syracuse University. While in college Oates had many influences including D.H. Lawrence, Flannery O’Connor, Thomas Mann, and Franz Kafka. Joyce won her college short story contest when she was 19, and graduated valedictorian in 1960 also receiving her M.A. from the University of Wisconsin in 1961. At the beginning of her writing career Oates wrote short stories for magazines. Her more well-known books are “Them” that won the National Book Award, and three other books nominated for the Pulitzer Prize. Those books are “Black Water, Blonde, and What I Lived For.” Oates also being a teacher taught in Beaumont, Texas for a year, then the University of Detroit, and after that Princeton University.

Sources: Wikipedia.com

Biography.com